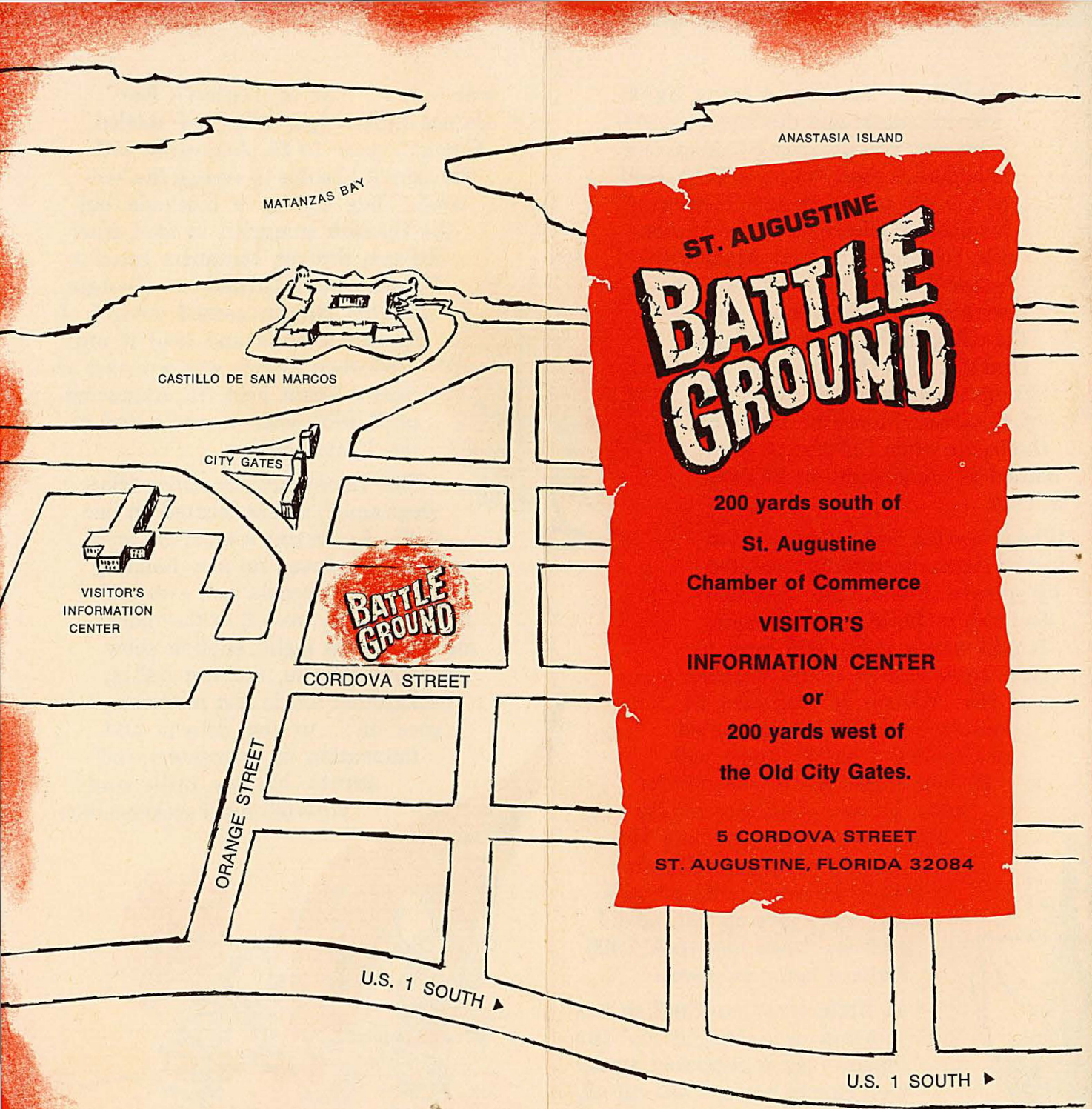


ST. AUGUSTINE

BATTLE GROUND

200 yards south of
St. Augustine
Chamber of Commerce
VISITOR'S
INFORMATION CENTER
or
200 yards west of
the Old City Gates.

5 CORDOVA STREET
ST. AUGUSTINE, FLORIDA 32084

don't miss...

ST. AUGUSTINE

BATTLE GROUND

The dynamic
and explosive
story of the siege,
sacking, looting and
burning of the
nation's Oldest City's
first 250 years
of founding.

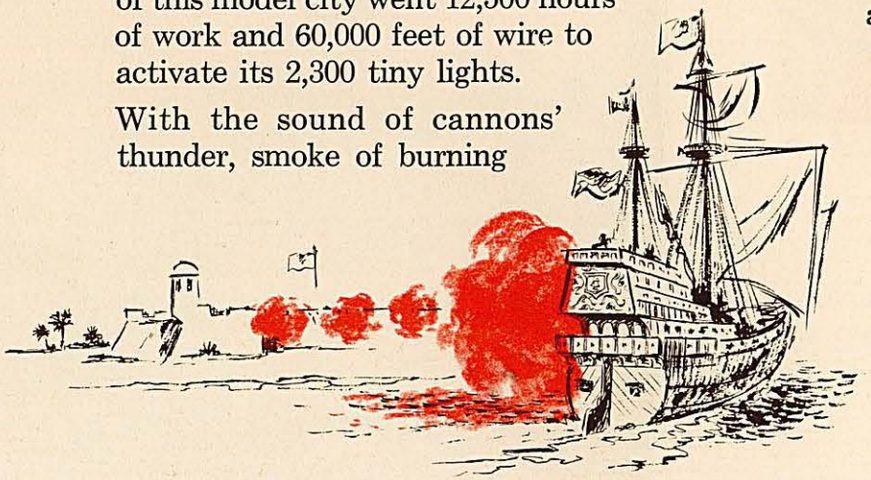
ST. AUGUSTINE, FLORIDA

ST. AUGUSTINE BATTLE GROUND

History has recorded many, many battlegrounds, but seldom has one city been the scene of so much conflict, change of loyalties and upheavals as has the city of St. Augustine, Florida.

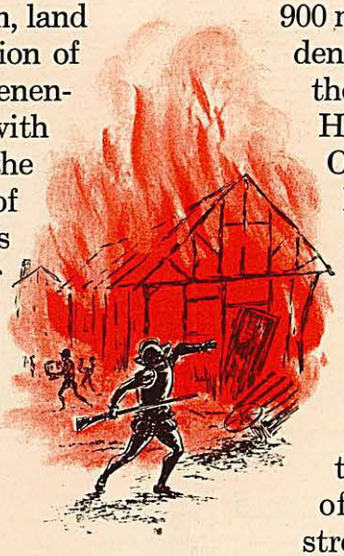
"Battleground," one of the most unique attractions to be found anywhere, is a 15 x 32 foot model of a complete Lilliputian city — 16th century St. Augustine. 450 tiny buildings, 2,000 miniature trees, midget sentries and to-scale fortifications help you re-live the pages of our country's colorful, and bloody past. Into the building of this model city went 12,500 hours of work and 60,000 feet of wire to activate its 2,300 tiny lights.

With the sound of cannons' thunder, smoke of burning buildings, flashing, moving lights, stirring music and descriptive narration, you will discover St. Augustine along with Juan Ponce de Leon, land at the site of the present Mission of Nombre de Dios with Pedro Menendez, celebrate the first Mass with Father Lopez. You will see the destruction of the wooden fort of the village of Seloy by Sir Francis Drake in 1586, the attack of other English pirates in 1668, the attack of Governor Moore in 1702 and the battle when Oglethorpe bombarded St. Augustine for 27 days in 1740.



When wooden fort after wooden fort had been successfully assaulted by pirate fleets, the Spanish decided to build one of stone. It still stands today and most of you have seen it — the Castillo de San Marcos. It took over 24 years to build and is constructed of coquina, a native stone, with 30 foot high and 12 foot thick walls. It was never successfully assaulted, although once the Governor of South Carolina held it under siege for 50 days and finally gave up. But he did burn the town and took 1,400 Indians home as slaves.

A little later an English sea captain was caught by the Spanish as a supposed smuggler. One of his ears was cut off, setting off an international incident. British Parliament declared war — the "War of Jenkin's Ear". James Oglethorpe, who had settled Georgia, came to St. Augustine with 900 men in 13 ships to avenge the incident. They set up a blockade but the Spanish smuggled in food from Havana, through Matanzas Inlet, so Oglethorpe returned to Georgia. In 1763 Britain gained control of Spanish Florida and held it until 1783 when Florida was returned to Spain. Spain held St. Augustine until 1820 when it was ceded to the United States.



This fascinating diorama, "Battleground", is now located on one of St. Augustine's most historic streets, Cordova. Its new building seats over 80 people and every 30 minutes or so, from 8 in the morning until 10 at night, another show with fire, smoke, moving lights, background music and narration, goes on . . . to the delight and fascination of youngsters and adults, history buffs and entertainment seekers alike.